

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Virtual Board Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2021

Staff Present: County Administrator Brian Dissette (via Zoom at the Administration Center)
Clerk Sharon Tyler
Sheriff Paul Bailey
Executive Assistant to the Administrator Annette Christie

BOC Present: R. McKinley Elliott (Arrived at 11:23 A.M.)
(In-person)

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Vice Chairperson Ezra Scott called the virtual regular meeting to order at 10:32 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Julie Wuerfel gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Commissioner Rayonte Bell led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

ROLL CALL:

The Vice Chair instructed the Clerk to take a roll call with the following results:

12 PRESENT: Rayonte Bell (via Zoom in St. Joseph City, MI), Jim Curran (via Zoom in Niles Charter Township, MI), Teri Sue Freehling (via Zoom in Baroda Township, MI), Robert Harrison (via Zoom in Lincoln Charter Township, MI), Jon Hinkelman (via Zoom in Watervliet, MI), Michael Majerek (via Zoom in Niles, MI), Don Meeks (via Zoom in Benton Charter Township, MI), Ezra Scott (via Zoom in New Buffalo Township, MI), David Vollrath (via Zoom in Coloma Charter Township, MI), Julie Wuerfel (via Zoom in Royalton Township, MI), Mamie Yarbrough (via Zoom in Benton Harbor City, MI) and R. McKinley Elliott (Arrived at 11:23 A.M.).

0 ABSENT: None.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 25, 2021 MEETING:

Commissioner Freehling moved and supported by Commissioner Meeks, to approve the BOC virtual regular meeting minutes of March 25, 2021.

The Vice Chair instructed the Clerk to call the roll with the following results:

11 YEAS: Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell and Scott.

Motion carried, no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

County Clerk Sharon Tyler received and distributed to the Board the following communication(s):

- Hillsdale County Board of Commissioners, a resolution in regards to COVID-19 - supporting their Sheriff and Prosecutor in not enforcing or prosecuting unconstitutional mandates, does not support the expenditure of any county funds for purpose of arrest and prosecution of any person accused of violating MDHHS emergency order, calls upon the citizens of Hillsdale County to act responsibly, and calls upon the Director of MDHHS to implement a new, regional approach to mitigation, received on March 24, 2021.

- Phillip “Ric” Seager, Watervliet Public Schools Superintendent, an email, thanking the Board for the Declaration of State of Emergency in Berrien County, received on March 25, 2021.
- Genesee County Board of Commissioners, a resolution supporting passage of legislation to adopt 4-year terms for County Commissioners, received on March 30, 2021.
- An email newsletter from Kelly Stelter, Berrien County 4-H Program Coordinator, the Berrien County Spotlight, 4-H Family News – April/May 2021 issue, received on March 31, 2021.

PRESENTATION(S) - Bob Hance – President/CEO of Midwest Energy & Communications:

President/CEO of Midwest Energy & Communications Bob Hance (via Zoom) gave a report on Midwest Energy & Communications and winning a grant from the Connect America Fund auction. Mr. Hance discussed what Midwest Energy & Communications is doing in respect to finding broadband solutions and initiatives.

Commissioner Freehling gave an update on the Merit Network Survey.

Discussion was held.

COMMITTEE REPORT(S):

- **Administration Committee**
- **Personnel & Human Services Committee**
- **Finance Committee**

The Administration, Personnel & Human Services, and Finance Committees presented their Committee Reports. Discussion was held. Parent Committee minutes are available at www.berriencounty.org.

Chairperson Elliot arrived at 11:23 A.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING RESOLUTIONS - Public comments at this portion of the meeting must be related to resolutions listed on today’s agenda only. Those speaking through the You Tube chat during public comments shall identify themselves by name (including last name) and city, township, or village. The public should refer to the resolution # that they are commenting on as a part of their comments:

Adolf Peltzer, Hagar Township, commented that the resolutions are not available for his review. Annette Christie responded that the resolutions are available on the County’s website.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Yarbrough requested to pull Resolution #P2104201 - Appoint Parks & Recreation Director from the Consent Calendar and to be read separately.

Chairperson Elliott requested Added Resolution #A2104205 to be included on the Consent Calendar.

Commissioner Scott moved and supported by Commissioner Wuerfel, to pull Resolution #P2104201 from the Consent Calendar and Added Resolution #A2104205 to be included on the Consent Calendar, and to approve today’s Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2104025	Weekly Bills
B2104072	Weekly Requisitions
F2104114	Road Payables
B2104193	Request State release of COVID funds
P2104198	Complement Change Health Department
P2104200	Approve facility agreement for COVID Clinic
F2104202	Drainage Project - Pledge Full Faith and Credit
F2104203	Drainage Project – Pledge Full Faith and Credit
A2104205	Approve grant application for Emergency Management

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call the roll with the following results:

12 YEAS: Freehling, Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell, Curran and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

Resolution #P2104201 - Appoint Parks & Recreation Director:

Commissioner Harrison moved and supported by Commissioner Scott, to approve Resolution #P2104201.

Chairperson Elliott read the following Resolution #P2104201:

***WHEREAS**, a vacancy existed in the position of Parks and Recreation Director; and*

***WHEREAS**, the vacancy was posted and applications were received; and*

***WHEREAS**, the unanimous choice of the interview team was Jill Adams.*

***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that effective April 12, 2021, Jill Adams is appointed to the position of Parks and Recreation Director.*

***BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED** that Ms. Adams annual salary be set at Grade 7, step 1 \$71,296.*

Discussion was held.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call the roll with the following results:

12 YEAS: Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell, Curran, Freehling and Elliot.

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTION(S):

Resolution #A2104205 - Approve grant application for Emergency Management

Resolution #A2104205 - Approve grant application for Emergency Management was moved to the Consent Calendar.

COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):

The Commissioners presented their outside Commissioners' Reports.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Administrator Dissette gave his Administrator's Report.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS – Those speaking through the You Tube chat during public comments shall identify themselves by name (including last name) and city, township, or village: None.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Finance Committee Motion

Finance Chairperson Yarbrough explained the Request for Waiver of Competitive Bidding for the roof repair at the Berrien County Jail and why this motion was being taken during the Board meeting.

Commissioner Scott moved and seconded by Commissioner Freehling, to approve the Request for Waiver of Competitive Bidding for the Building and Grounds Department on the roof repair at the Berrien County Jail. Support needed by Finance members.

Discussion was held.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call the roll for the Finance Committee with the following results:

4 YEAS: Hinkelman, Scott, Freehling and Yarbrough.

Motion carried, no nays.

Chairperson Elliott discussed the Declaration of a State of Emergency for Berrien County that was passed last week by the Board, and the COVID-19 issues in Berrien County and the State of Michigan. Administrator Dissette received an email from the Michigan Association of Counties in regards to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services who has modified attendance restriction in its COVID-19 health orders. The Board will have Corporate Counsel review the modified attendance restrictions for an interpretation. Discussion was held.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- Personnel & Human Services Committee virtual meeting next Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 8:30 A.M.
- BOC virtual meeting next Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 10:30 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.